

and Katghora. At present, emphasis is given for development of existing National Highways instead of declaring more roads as National Highways.

(c) and (d) The allocation of fund to State Government is made for the State as a whole. The funds allocated to the Government of Chhattisgarh for original works during the last three years and expenditure there on are as under:

Year	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Allocation	46.00	36.26	51.56
Expenditure	42.39	34.89	49.34

An expenditure of Rs. 33.74 lakhs has been incurred exclusively for new National Highway No. 221 in the year 2005-06.

The details of payment made to contractors and the works carried out by them in respect of construction on National Highway No. 78 in Chhattisgarh State are indicated below:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of work	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	Total
Widening to two lane	94.29	0.00	459.06	553.35
Improvement of riding quality	112.36	941.09	1230.62	2284.07
Bridges	0.00	0.00	19.93	19.93
Others	0.00	0.00	29.76	29.76
TOTAL	206.65	941.09	1739.37	2887.11

Assignments to overseas Experts in Private Ports

1762. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether security agencies have expressed concern over the engagement of overseas experts on some assignments in private ports; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the Centre's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Security considerations are taken into account while granting initial employment visa to foreigners seeking employment in India.

Vadodara-Mumbai Expressway

†1763. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any feasibility report has been prepared for Vadodara-Mumbai Expressway proposed to be undertaken under the National Highway Development Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by when it will be undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Contract for consultancy services for preparation of Feasibility Report is expected to be awarded by March, 2007.

Cost escalation of NH projects

1764. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the cost escalation of NHAI projects in 2004-05 and 2005-06;

(b) the break-up of such cost escalations in NHAI projects, State-wise;

(c) the action NHAI has taken to identify the reasons for cost escalation;

(d) whether it is a fact that senior officers rarely visit sites; and

(e) the steps proposed to carefully monitor all projects?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.